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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/510,919	10/12/2004	Yusuke Itakura	Q84140	4880
23373	7590	06/28/2005	EXAMINER	
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC 2100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W. SUITE 800 WASHINGTON, DC 20037			SMITH, TYRONE W	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2837	

DATE MAILED: 06/28/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/510,919

Applicant(s)

ITAKURA, YUSUKE

Examiner

Tyrone W. Smith

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 7 and 10-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 13 and 14 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 7, 10-12 and 15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12 October 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 10/12/04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: Figures 4-6, 8-10 and 16. Examiner request that the Applicant review the drawing and add reference number describing the figures. Further, the specification should reflect the changes in the drawings for continuity. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the examiner does not accept the changes, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 13 and 14 objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claim because the claims cannot depend from any other multiple dependent claim. See MPEP § 608.01(n). Accordingly, the claims 13 and 14 not been further treated on the merits.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. The term "free arbitrary" in claims 1 and 15 is a relative term, which renders the claim indefinite. The term "free arbitrary" is not defined by the claim, the specification does not provide a standard for ascertaining the requisite degree, and one of ordinary skill in the art would not be reasonably apprised of the scope of the invention. Examiner requests that the Applicant define the meaning and use of "free arbitrary" in the claim.

5. The term "immobilizer" in claim 15 is a relative term, which renders the claim indefinite. The term "immobilizer" is not defined by the claim, the specification does not provide a standard for ascertaining the requisite degree, and one of ordinary skill in the art would not be reasonably apprised of the scope of the invention. Examiner requests that the Applicant define the meaning and use of "immobilizer" in the claim.

6. The term "GUI" in claim 13 is a relative term, which renders the claim indefinite. The term "GUI" is not defined by the claim, the specification does not provide a standard for ascertaining the requisite degree, and one of ordinary skill in the art would not be reasonably apprised of the scope of the invention. Examiner requests that the Applicant define the acronym used in the claim. .

7. The claims (7 and 10-15) are generally narrative and indefinite, failing to conform with current U.S. practice. They appear to be a literal translation into English from a foreign document and are replete with grammatical and idiomatic errors. Examiner suggests amending the claims and checking for spelling and sentence structure.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

8. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

9. Claims 7, 10-12 and 15 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Omura et al (JP06-342302).

Regarding Claims 7, 10 and 15. Omura discloses a device and method for varying control gain of an controller for a vehicle that includes a plurality of setting characteristics(4 wheel drive, steering, suspension, engine) for the vehicle (abstract; section [0055] – section [0057]); using a memory portion for memorizing set vehicle characteristics (abstract; Figure 2 items 22 and 23) and selecting vehicle characteristics from vehicle characteristic memory portion (abstract; Figure 2 item 21; section [0055] – section [0081]) where the control units (Figure 2 items 30-36 and 21) for controlling the vehicle characteristic including a default memory portion for memorizing a default characteristic set upon production (abstract; section [0079] – section [0081]); a setting characteristic determining portion for determining whether or not setting of the vehicle characteristic setting portion is valid (section [0079] – section [0082]) and a selection switch which is changed over by the setting characteristic determining portion (section [0079] – section [0082]). Further, the setting characteristic determining portion transmit the setting data of the vehicle characteristic to the control unit and when the setting characteristic determining portion determines that the setting is invalid the selection switch

being changed over to transmit the memory data in the default characteristic memory portion to the control unit (abstract; section [0079] – section [0082]).

Regarding Claims 11. Omura teaches a steering characteristic unit containing at the steering characteristic selecting means in conjunction to a current instruction portion for computing current instruction value through serial communications (section [0032-0034]; section [0079] – section [0082]).

Regarding Claim 12. Omura teaches in conjunction with the steering characteristics, an input/output characteristic and vehicle velocity response characteristic (section [0032-0034]; section [0079] – section [0082]).

Conclusion

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Pertinent arts related to the current invention are disclosed in the PTO-892.

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tyrone W. Smith whose telephone number is 571-272-2075. The examiner can normally be reached on weekdays from 8:30am to 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Martin, can be reached on 571-272-2800 ext. 37. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

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system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Tyrone Smith
Patent Examiner

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MARLON T. FLETCHER
PRIMARY EXAMINER